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News

Isko sorry for 2022 election defeat; Sonia Roco says Aksyon Demokratiko still grateful

Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News

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MANILA – Aksyon Demokratiko chairman emeritus Sonia Roco on Wednesday said the party remained grateful to all its members after standard-bearer Isko Moreno Domagoso apologized to his party mates for failing to cinch the presidential seat in the 2022 national elections.

While Domagoso said he was sorry for losing in the presidential race, he underscored that Aksyon Demokratiko grew by "400 percent" in membership in the run-up to the national elections.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say sorry. Sorry na hindi tayo nagtagumpay," he said in a speech during the Aksyon Demokratiko's thanksgiving dinner.

"Kung mayroon mang the other side of the coin, we grew by 400 percent. Yun man lang ang regalo natin kay Ma'am Sonia," he said, referring to the chairperson emeritus, who is also the wife of party founder and late Sen. Raul Roco.

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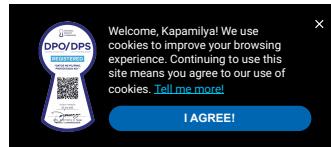
"Hindi man kami pinalad, at least in the grassroots level and even in Congress, may Aksyon at ang Aksyon mararamdam sa susunod na 3 taon ng buhay nila," he added.

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Domagoso landed on the 4th place of the presidential race with about 1.9 million votes.

Despite the unfavorable result, Aksyon Demokratiko's party president told his peers that it is important to keep a happy disposition, especially for those who won in their respective local races.

"Kahit na ako ay hindi pinagpala na magkaroon ng mga magulang na kilala sa pulitika, but through the years, with my own effort, I went up the ladder at doon ako mas maraming natutunan," he said.

"Bumoto na ang tao, 31 million of them... We must not only recognize but we must help in our own little way. Hindi tayo dapat hingan ng tulong, dapat magkusa tayo tumulong," he said.

"Paano kayo makakatulong? Galingan ninyo... maging magaling tayo. Kung hindi din tayo magiging bahagi ng solusyon, wag na tayo maging bahagi ng suliranin o pabigat," he said.

AKSYON DEMOKRATIKO STILL GRATEFUL

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Of the 2,025 candidates Aksyon Demokratiko fielded in the 2022 elections, only 585 bets bagged seats, party chairman Ernest Ramel Jr. said.

But the past election season is still considered as an achievement for Aksyon as the party now has some 4,000 members from just 120 in previous years, he said.

It is important for Aksyon members to keep a grateful spirit, Roco said.

"Gratitude is a virtue because we choose to celebrate rather than to resent," she said.

"Nandito tayo upang tayo ay magsaya, magpasalamat sa isat isa dahil we all tried your best. How can you go wrong when you did your best? How can we lose when we were so sincere?" she said.

While Aksyon did not win a national seat, the hopes and dreams of the party and its founder remain alive, she said.

"Manalo man o hindi manalo, nandito tayo, sama-sama pa rin hanggang sa matupad natin yung mga pangarap natin para sa bayan natin," she said.

"If we have fire in our belly and it is burning, it must flame out and others must see that light," she said.

Domagoso said he is happy for his party mates who were victorious in the 2022 elections, and urged them to do their best in the next 3 years.

"Go straight to the people. 'Yun ang payo ko sa inyo," he said.

"Saan tatakbo ngayon ang tao? Sa pamahalaan... kaya I hope your intention before filing that candidacy, manatili sa inyo after winning. 'Yung maglingkod ng masinop, mainam at episiente," he said.

Domagoso has yet to bare his plans after his term as Manila Mayor ends on June 30, 2022.

But the Aksyon Demokratiko president assured his party mates that he would always be available should they need help in their respective constituencies.

"Patuloy nating paibamin ang palaganapin ang pangarap ni Sen. Raul Roco sa ating mga kababayan," he said.

"Kailangan sa araw-araw, linggo-lingga, buwan-buwan na siya ay matutumba, kailangan nandoon yung pader - na nakatatak Aksyon - na kaniyang masasandalan," he said.

"I believe in you. I know you can do it. Dito lang kami sa gedli. Dito lang kami sa beta. Mananatiling gabay ninyong lahat. Hindi kami mawawala."

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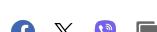
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News

Lawmaker questions alleged non-implementation of law for learners with disabilities

Victoria Tulad, ABS-CBN News

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A school in Barangay Buluang, Busuanga, in Palawan on November 29, 2022. Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/File

MANILA — Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday expressed dismay over the alleged non-implementation of a law that ensures inclusive education for learners with disabilities two years after it was signed.

During Tuesday's hearing of the Committee on Basic Education, the Department of Education (DepEd) said the delay was due to the still pending publication of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 11650.

The law was signed on March 11, 2022, and the IRR signed on July 18, 2024.

"It's quite disappointing that it took two years to craft the IRR and after crafting the IRR, six months thereafter, there's no publication yet. In other words, some of the provisions, not all, some of the provisions of the law, cannot be implemented," Gatchalian said.

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"This is a disservice to learners with disabilities," he added. "Nobody can understand why a simple publication cannot be implemented. Just go to a newspaper outlet and just publish it. Or go to the Official Gazette which is online and publish it."

DepEd Director IV Leila Areola of the Bureau of Learning Delivery said they were told the IRR would be published on December 2, but were not able to confirm with the Committee if this indeed happened.

DepEd Assistant Secretary Alma Torio said, "We will closely coordinate with our office or strand which will take charge of the issuance of IRR."

The agency's legal strand is in charge of the said publication.

"I would suggest you take charge. Gawa na lang kayo ng Viber group. Pati si Secretary Angara ilagay niyo na doon," Gatchalian said.

"Publish the IRR, those items in the law that can be implemented, let's implement it already."

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Business

Ready to share on #GivingTuesday?

Aneth Ng-Lim

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While Thanksgiving is not a widely observed tradition here in the Philippines, many take advantage of the huge sales around it including the Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals offered by multinational brands and even local stores.

But after all those shopping red-letter days, there is #GivingTuesday, a national day of giving that is celebrated in the United States which has started to also spread to different parts of the world.

With Giving Tuesday, we are reminded to give to those in need during the most generous time of the year. This is a day to celebrate generosity and offer a handout and a hand up to the less fortunate.

Now, giving does not have to be cash (but it's always welcome). There are many ways to give back, and here are some of them for you to consider, and hopefully take that step to pay it forward.

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One of the best gifts you can give to a charity is unrestricted funds, meaning a donation they can use where they need it the most. While any donation is welcome, some come with strings attached, like intended only for calamity victims, or feeding programs. These are

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#3 Raise funds or set up a collection with family and friends

If you can only give a small amount, or none at all, you can still give by offering to raise funds for charities, or set up a collection drive of food or books at work, or with family and friends. There are so many charities that need support, and you can help bring their situation to the attention of your circle. They need local champions to reach new audiences and amplify the good work that they are doing. Let this be you.

#4 Volunteer and give your time

Offer your time and skills to lighten the load for community charities. If you're a good cook, sign up to help with feeding programs. Computer-savvy? Maybe you can give their social media presence a boost. If they have activities, an extra pair of hands is always going to be needed. Invite family and friends too, as the more volunteers, the merrier the service.

#5 Plant a tree for a greener future

No gift is too small, and even if you can only plant one tree a year, that's one more tree that adds to a greener future. There are charities dedicated to ecological activities, or you can do something as simple as signing up for electronic statements for your bills. The less printed mail delivered to you, the less trees are cut, plus the less clutter for you. If you're a GCash user, sign up for GForest and plant a tree when you have earned enough "green energy".

#6 Beyond sweat and tears, how about donating blood?

Try it at least once, and hopefully you'll be okay enough to do this once a year. Donating blood can save lives, and if you give to public hospitals, you are supporting healthcare systems for the poor. Donated blood is not just needed for surgeries, organ transplants, and cancer treatments, but also patients with various conditions including women during childbirth, car accident victims and more. Plus, donating blood is good for you as it can improve blood flow, lower blood pressure, even reduce risk of cancer.

#7 Love local and support community businesses

One more way of giving back to your community is supporting the local businesses. Do you know that it's not the largest companies in the world that are the biggest employers but these micro and small businesses put together? So when you support a local business, you are helping boost employment, even fostering local arts and crafts, and probably getting the best bargain too.

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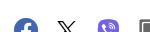
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Regions

Taal's phreatic eruption observed from Talisay MDDRMO

ABS-CBN News, Courtesy of Talisay MDDRMO

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Taal's phreatic eruption observed from Talisay MDDRMO



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Video shows the actual steam-driven or phreatic eruption of Taal Volcano recorded by the CCTV camera at the Talisay Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council Operations Center at 5:58 am on December 3, 2024.

The phreatic eruption released plumes up a kilometer high.

Residents are advised to stay vigilant as Alert Level 1 remains imposed in the area according to local authorities.

[Minor Taal Volcano eruption observed; alert level stays low](#)

Published Dec 03, 2024 12:54 PM PHI

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Students walk during a heavy downpour in Mandaluyong City on August 23, 2022. George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News/File

MANILA — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday said he wants board members of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) to be based in Manila as he considers their work "urgent" amid the Philippines' "increasing disaster risks."

[**杪 What should the PH bring to table as host of Loss and Damage Fund Board?**](#)

"We're working very hard for the board to be based here in Manila because [of] its supreme importance for the Philippines, because of all of the risks that we are bracing [for], because of climate change," Marcos said as he welcomed the members of the board in Malacañang.

[**杪 PH elected as climate change loss and damage fund board host**](#)

Marcos has yet to provide details of where exactly the board's headquarters will be established.

In July, the Philippines was elected to host the board of the LDF, the panel "entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, which would also serve the Paris Agreement."

Its mandate includes "a focus on addressing loss and damage to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change."

[**杪 ASEAN member states seek loss and damage fund for disasters**](#)

Marcos cited the record disasters that hit the Philippines in the past weeks in his pitch to make the board based in Manila.

[**杪 NASA: Philippines' overlapping cyclones 'unusual'**](#)

"That's how urgent we consider the board's work and how it is important to us that you work here in Manila, in the Philippines," he said.

The 26-member LDF board is composed of 12 members from developed country Parties and 14 members from developing country Parties.

[**杪 Senate OKs Blue Economy, Loss and Damage Fund Board Acts**](#)

The fund was established to address loss and damage, or the "negative consequences that arise from the unavoidable risks of climate change, like rising sea levels, prolonged heatwaves, desertification, the acidification of the sea and extreme events, such as bushfires, species extinction and crop failures," as defined by the United Nations Environment Program.

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PEZA said it approved 239 new and expansion projects in the first 11 months. These can bring about over \$3.9 billion in export revenues and directly give jobs to more than 70,000 Filipinos.

This means that yearly, there was a 21.31 percent increase in approved projects, a 14 percent growth in exports, and more than double the employment opportunities.

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PEZA said that in November 2024 alone, it approved 41 new and expansion projects with a combined investment of P77.794 billion. These projects are expected to make \$831.019 million in exports and create 30,623 jobs.

Ten of the projects are in export manufacturing, while four are in the information technology-business process management sector. Two are in facilities development, while one is in ecozone development.

They are located in Batangas, Laguna, Cebu, Cavite, Rizal, Pampanga, and Negros Oriental.

PEZA Director-General Tereso Panga said this shows that investor confidence is at an all-time high.

"This only proves that investor confidence in the Philippines and in PEZA continues to thrive due to the government's investor-friendly policy direction partnered with the ease of doing business inside our zones," he said.

[PEZA Board approves 16 new and expansion projects](#)

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